

within him with the members of his church community. As a firefighter, Lieutenant Allen showed humility through his willingness to sacrifice his safety and well-being for the protection of others. As a correctional officer, he served as a source of character inspiration and guidance for the inmates in his charge. And as the son of a former mayor of Tar Heel, Lieutenant Allen was born into a tradition of public service, a tradition that he would uphold and implement every day of his life.

The life of this remarkable hero was truly one dedicated to helping others and making his community a better place to live. Lieutenant Allen and 82 additional heroes who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty were honored by 5,000 people, including President George Bush and Members of Congress, during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on October 7, 2007.

Madam Speaker, may we never forget the goodness, humility, service, and character that defined the life of Lieutenant Allen. May God continue to bless his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

A TRIBUTE TO SALLIE BALDWIN
HOWARD

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Sallie Baldwin Howard, a native and resident of Wilson, North Carolina. For many years, Mrs. Howard dedicated her life to educating and serving the people of Northeastern North Carolina. She was recently honored as the Wilson Human Relations Commission 2007 Paul Lee Stevens Humanitarian for outstanding service to her community.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Howard, who is affectionately known as "Bibi," dedicated much of her life as a teacher in the New York City Public School System during her early years, but for the past 15 years she has donated all of her time and energy to rallying youth in Wilson, challenging them to be exemplary citizens and great achievers.

Madam Speaker, high praise is due to Mrs. Howard for her success in overcoming the racial and gender prejudices of her time. Mrs. Bibi Howard was born in Wilson, North Carolina, to Narcissus and Marcellus Sims on March 23, 1916. She overcame countless challenges growing up in the Jim Crow South as the daughter of sharecroppers. Nevertheless, she was driven and focused and graduated as valedictorian from Charles H. Darden High School in 1938. Mrs. Howard attended Hunter College in New York City where she earned both her bachelor and masters degree in education.

She taught for nearly 30 years as a first grade teacher in New York. While there, she worked in the New York City American Negro Theater, which helped start the careers of Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee and Esther Rolle. There she honed her acting, directing and writing talent, finding a voice through her art. Her Off Broadway play *The Passing of a Dinosaur* is still performed today in local schools.

Upon her retirement, Mrs. Howard returned to Wilson to lead the Christian Education Department of the St. John AME Zion Church. Her enthusiasm for education and the church inspired many of the youth of the community. Along with many other projects, Mrs. Howard founded the Youth Enrichment Program with Dr. JoAnne Woodard in 1989, and focused the program on lasting scholarship, a commitment to the cultural heritage of African Americans, and promoting the arts. Bibi Howard's tireless work to enrich the community inspired Dr. JoAnne Howard to create the one of the first public charter schools in the state, and the only public charter school in Wilson, the Sallie B. Howard School for the Arts & Education. The school, along with the Youth Enrichment Program, has been an invaluable asset to our community.

Madam Speaker, in honor and recognition of Mrs. Sallie Baldwin Howard's diligent service as an educator and leader, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great woman.

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF
HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH
SCHOOL EAST

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students of Half Hollow Hills High School East for their thoughtful letters on the war in Iraq. I appreciated hearing their views and reading their individual letters which contained their ideas and perspectives on our involvement in Iraq.

I want to applaud their interest in this critical topic and appreciate that they took the time to share their opinions with me.

TRIBUTE TO ERIN REED, LOIS
SUZUKI AND STEVE SMITH

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, on September 29, 2005, emergency flight nurses Erin Reed, Lois Suzuki and pilot Steve Smith gave their lives when their helicopter lost control in inclement weather conditions after delivering a patient to a nearby hospital. This accident, like many of the increasing number of emergency medical service (EMS) fatal crashes, occurred under so-called "Part 91" regulations, which allow an EMS crew to fly in conditions which are more dangerous than what is permitted when a patient or an organ is on board.

Since her death, Erin's family has joined a coalition of friends and family members who have lost loved ones in a medical flight. Their efforts are devoted to making air medical transports safer for the flight crew and patients who take to the skies for emergency medical care. With the support of this coalition, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation today that will increase safety for all those on board an aircraft providing emergency medical services. This bill will eliminate the Part 91

regulations for certain flights and direct the Federal Aviation Administration to study and implement several other proposals to increase safety conditions for medical flights.

I would like to recognize the efforts of the many families who have responded to their losses with determination to help others. I would particularly like to thank Stacey Friedman, Erin's sister, for her tireless efforts in advocating for changes that would protect caregivers like her sister. By enacting this legislation, we will not only honor the remarkable sacrifices of those who gave their lives while trying to save others, but in their honor we will also prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

RECENTLY INTRODUCED HEALTH
CARE LEGISLATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss three bills I recently introduced that are designed to reduce the number of Americans who do not have access to health insurance. These three bills are designated H.R. 3515, the Health Insurance Tax Relief Act of 2007; H.R. 3516, the Affordable Health Care for Americans Act of 2007; and H.R. 3517, the Long-Term Care Tax Reduction Act of 2007.

In 2006, approximately 47 million Americans, or 15.8 percent of the population, did not have health insurance coverage for the entire year. When people lack health insurance, they often find themselves lacking real access to health care, thus unnecessarily incur illnesses, emotional and physical pain, and costs. This is particularly the case with preventable or chronic conditions. In addition, when patients cannot pay for health services, the facilities that provide those services suffer financial losses, which have been estimated to be as high as \$41 billion annually. As a result, some health care providers reduce or stop offering services while others may raise rates, thus reducing everyone's access to health care.

The average annual premium for self-only coverage in 2007 is \$4,479 with the average premium for a family of four at \$12,106. These premiums were 7.7 percent over the cost of the previous year's premiums and grew at a rate in excess of both wage gains and the growth in prices for goods and services. Nearly 60 percent of Americans receive health insurance through their employment, primarily because of the advantages available to employers and employees under our Nation's tax code.

To reduce the number of uninsured Americans, we need to help open doors for those who do not receive health insurance through their workplace and do not qualify for public programs. H.R. 3515, the Health Insurance Tax Relief Act of 2007, and H.R. 3516, the Affordable Health Care for Americans Act are both designed to provide this assistance. Specifically, H.R. 3515 would allow eligible individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance and H.R. 3516 would permit individuals to take an above-the-line tax deduction, whether or not they itemize, for all health insurance premiums paid during a tax year.